FORMER NAZI OFFICER STRIPPED OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP

WASHINGTON, Aug 04, (Reuter) - A federal judge in Philadelphia revoked the U.S. citizenship of a retired architect who had concealed his membership in a Nazi-sponsored killing unit, the Justice Department said on Thursday.

A District Court judge Wednesday found that Jonas Stelmokas, 78, joined a Lithuanian Nazi force shortly after Germany's invasion of the country in 1941. Stelmokas served in the unit until 1944, when he was transferred to the German air force. The judge found that Stelmokas was on duty with his unit when it participated in the October 28, 1941 slaughter of 9,200 Jews in Kaunas, Lithuania. The court found that in light of Stelmokas' Nazi service and concealment of that service, his 1955 naturalisation was illegal. According to the Justice Department the Office of Special Investigations, or OSI has obtained the denaturalization of 52 former Nazis.

LITHUANIA'S JEWS VOICE CONCERN OVER "SYSTEMATIC" DESECRATION OF GRAVES

VILNIUS, Aug 04, BNS - Desecration of Jewish graves is becoming a system in Lithuania, says Simonas Alperavicius, chairman of the Lithuanian Jewish Community. In his opinion, police should look deeper into anti-Semitic attacks that have occurred more than once in Vilnius, Kaunas and some other places.

Lithuania's Jews were especially angered by an incident that occurred Wednesday night at the Jewish cemetery in Vilnius. According to police reports, unidentified vandals daubed five tombstones with yellow paint and left the Nazi slogan "Juden raus" (Jews out) on one of the graves. The incident is under investigation.

BRAZAUSKAS URGES QUICKER CREATION OF BALTIC CUSTOMS UNION, BETTER PROTECTION OF EASTERN BORDERS

VILNIUS, Aug 02, BNS - Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas is calling for steps to accelerate the creation of a customs union in the Baltic states and at the same time to enforce their eastern borders with Russia and Belarus.

Asked about the problem of illegal immigrants, Brazauskas said efforts should be concentrated on "catching" them near the eastern border and not in the Baltic Sea. Brazauskas said he believed that Lithuania was gradually improving control over its sea border and economic zone.

The Lithuanian president is currently on vacation in the seaside resort of Nida. He is scheduled to return to work next week.